AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) A rubber composition based on at least one elastomer, comprising titanium dioxide particles as anti-UV agent having an average size of at most 80 nm and at least partially coated with a layer of at least one metal oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

26. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claims 25, wherein said layer is a layer of at least one silicon or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

27. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 26, wherein said layer is formed from silica, an aluminosilicate or alumina.

28. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said titanium dioxide particles have an average size of between 20 and 70 nm.

29. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein the titanium dioxide has a anatase crystal structure.

30. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said titanium dioxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 40 m^2/g.

31. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said composition comprises at least one elastomer having a glass transition temperature of between -150°C and +20°C.

32. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said composition further comprises at least one reinforcing filler and, optionally, at least one coupling agent or at least one coating agent.

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33. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said composition further contains no carbon black.

34. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said composition further comprises at least one organic antioxidant.

35. (Previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 25, wherein said composition has a weight content of titanium dioxide particles of between 0.5 and 8%.

36. (Previously presented) A finished article comprising a composition as defined in claim 25

37. (Previously presented) A process for protecting a rubber composition against UV radiation, comprising the step of adding to said composition a protecting amount against UV radiation of titanium dioxide particles having an average size of at most 80 nm and at least partially coated with a layer of at least one metal oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

38. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said layer is a layer of at least one silicon or aluminum oxide, hydroxide or oxohydroxide.

39. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 38, wherein said layer is formed from silica, an aluminosilicate or alumina.

40. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said titanium dioxide particles have an average size of between 20 and 70 nm.

41. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein the titanium dioxide has a anatase crystal structure.

42. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said titanium dioxide particles have a BET specific surface area of at least 40 m^2/g.

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43. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said particles are in powder form.

44. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said rubber composition comprises at least one elastomer, having a glass transition temperature of between -150°C and +20°C.

45. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said rubber composition furthermore includes at least one reinforcing filler and, optionally, at least one coupling agent or at least one coating agent.

46. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said rubber composition further contains no carbon black.

47. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein said rubber composition ifurther comprises at least one organic antioxidant.

48. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 37, wherein between 0.5 and 8% by mass relative to the total mass of said rubber composition, of titanium dioxide particles is added to said rubber composition.

49. (Previously presented) A process as claimed in claim 48, wherein between 1and 5% by mass relative to the total mass of said rubber composition, of titanium dioxide particles is added to said rubber composition.